

## Big Warrior [Indian/Native American] to Andrew Jackson, April 16, 1816, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### BIG WARRIOR TO JACKSON.

Camp on Ofuckskee, April 16, 1816.

*General Jackson, My friend.* I am going now to answer your letter.<sup>1</sup> I wish to know whether you want me to search out for those murderers. I thought I had put all that power in General Gaines so far as I was able to do it.

1 Nov. 26, 1815, Jackson wrote to General Gaines: "I received a very friendly letter from the Big Warrior of date 28th Ulto. but he is certainly a man of great duplicity."

I recollect the treaty at Fort Jackson; I told you your enemy was just over the river, that they were not Completely cowed and that they would be yet killing of us and said let us follow them and kill them. You replied, if you kill them I will kill you, let them alone the war is ended with the Indians. I told you of this, that whenever they quit their towns, and lost their lands, they were like a parcel of wolves, had no homes to go to and would be doing mischief; that they would never return to the friendly party and were like wild people in the woods. You Cannot expect such fellows as those will return to their native Country, nor expect from me to make a search for them.

It appears that I am suspicioned by these murderers coming into their former towns. If it was found out that they Came over the line on our side, our warriors are ready, I would turn them out and put the law in force and see they were punished; But as the murder has been done below the line on your side it is out of my power to do any thing in it. They

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have never returned to the settlements of the friendly Indians Since they were driven off by General Jackson.

*My freind Jackson*, I remember, the speech you made at Fort Jackson, that you were going to have a line directly. You told me all the damage done above the line I should be answerable for. That line was to cut me off from all those below the line and from having any Connection with foreign powers or others; you were the only Commander below the line. I recollect what I have here stated and for that reason cannot have any agency below the line. This is all I have to say to my friend and brother General Jackson in answer to his letter.

I have now to speak to him on a subject that concerns us. Since the treaty at Fort Jackson there has been several murders Committed above the line, by Soldiers and by Citizens. One in particular at the Councilhouse (Tookabatchee). I did not think the murderer would be Carried out of the Country, but would be executed: Instead of that he was taken over the line.

One was killed at ocmulgee ferry and buried on the hill when the regular troops were there. One at the big spring on the west side of Fort Mitchell by the militia and one by a Captain of the Army at Fort Jackson. I think hard about the female killed at Tookabatchee, she was a beloved woman. The officer Commanding the Regiment there, told me the murderer should be confined in irons. In place of that he was seen the other day travelling along the road with his wife. If the Indian murderers were as Completely in my power as this murderer was in yours, you should see what I would have done with them, but as the Case now stands I am sorry for it. This is what I wished you to know had been done above the line, Which I send to my friend General Jackson.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The following letter from Brigadier-General Gaines to Jackson, Apr. 18, 1816, shows in what attitude the Indians bent before the inevitable:

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"I explained to the Indians settled near Summochichoba the object of our movement—to complete the line according to the Treaty, and lay off the land, that our people may buy and settle it, that I brought the pipe of peace for our friends, and for our enemies the *cannon* and *bayonet*. They replied that they were too poor and too weak to oppose us, and therefore had determined to sit still and hold down their heads. The line from chattahoochie to the ofuxche has been corrected and completed.

"Upon the receipt of your letter I sent captain Robertson with an Interpreter to the Big Warrior, with your letter to him; I now enclose his reply. It was taken down by captain Robertson, as he assures me, in the words of the Big Warrior, strictly, as interpreted by James Cornells. The Big Warrior, captain Robertson adds was unusually serious. Reports say the life of this *great Prince* is menaced by his own people."

Your friend and brother, Big B W Warrior Speaker for Upper Creeks